GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3776
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000
FOOD AND DRUG AUTHORITY
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU;VAIKO

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been demand to set up some authority to regulate the standard of food items, drugs and medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the food and drug administration both at Centre/State level?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a)&(b) The standards of food items are currently being regulated under the Prevention of Food Adulteration(PFA) Act and Rules thereof, and those of drugs and medicines under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereof.Both these Acts are administrered concurrently by the Central and State Governments.Suggestions have been received from time to time for streamlining the existing regulatory structure to enhance the efficacy of the enforcement machinery, including the setting up of a Food Regulatory Authority and a National Drug Authority.

(c) Steps taken to strengthen the food and drug administration include the following:-

(i) Funds have been provided for augmentation of Drug control machinery at the Centre and to provide assistance to State-level drug control organizations to augment the drug testing facilities and management information system. Similarly, the State Food Testing laboratories are provided funds for purchase of equipment under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(ii) Equipments are also provided to State/UT Food laboratories under WHO assistance;

(iii) Orientation training courses are also regularly arranged for the personnel involved in the implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 viz. Local (Health) Authorities, Public Analyst/Chemists and Food Inspectors.